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Joint Photographic Intelligence Report

NEW ALL-WEATHER COASTAL ROAD
ON KOLKASRAGS PENINSULA

USSR



ARMY



NAVY



CIA

JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

PIC/JR-10/59

JUNE 1959

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NEW ALL-WEATHER COASTAL ROAD ON KOLKASRAGS PENINSULA

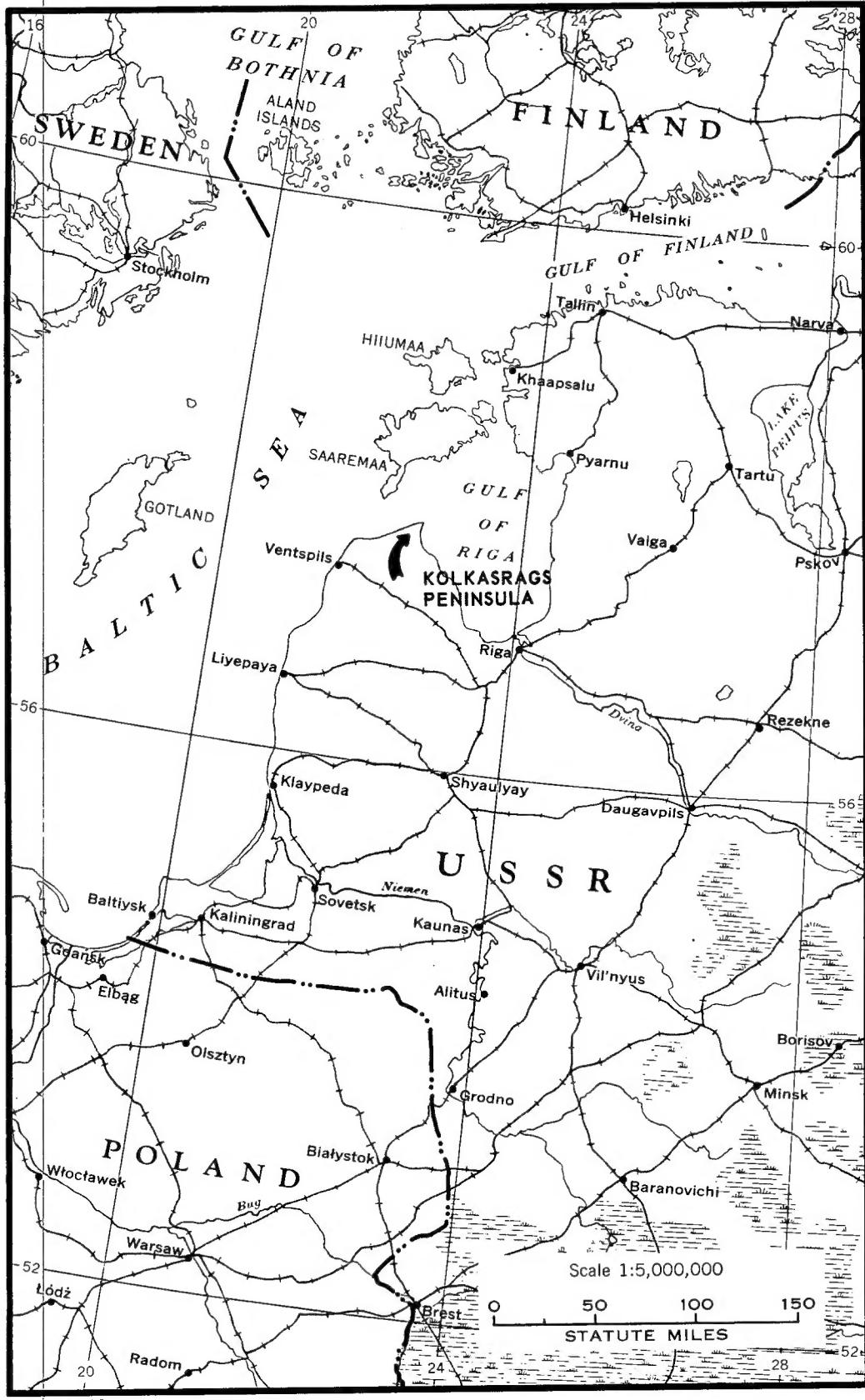
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I. INTRODUCTION

This joint Army, Navy, CIA photographic intelligence report has been prepared to fulfill Army requirement SRI 202T-1-58 and CIA requirement RR/E/R142/58 which request the following information concerning a new highway on the Kolkasrags Peninsula, possibly related to guided missile activity.

1. Layout of the main road; location, association, and pertinent dimensions of connecting roads.
2. Indications of construction activity.
3. Security measures.
4. Storage facilities.
5. Military activities.
6. Unusual or unexplained activities.

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Photography [redacted] shows an excellent quality road which had been recently constructed along the northwest coast of Kolkasrags Peninsula (see the photograph, Figure 1). There are no indications of this road in any available Soviet publications or on any known maps. The quality of this road is indicative of its importance to some Soviet activity. In addition, the entire peninsula north of Ventspils is closed to foreign travelers. 1/ This analysis is intended to contribute available photographic intelligence on the construction and extent of this road and related facilities.

II. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The road originates three miles east of Ventspils with a wye-type turn from the main Riga/Ventspils highway. It proceeds north along the east edge of Lake Busnieku, then to the vicinity of Ovisi, where it turns northeast and follows the coast line ending at the beach in Kolkasrags, a distance of approximately 47 miles (see map, Figure 2). It is an all-weather road, well graded, approximately 25 feet wide, and capable of handling heavy military traffic. It would appear that no expense has been spared in its construction. All curves and grades are gradual and every effort has been made to keep the road as straight as possible.

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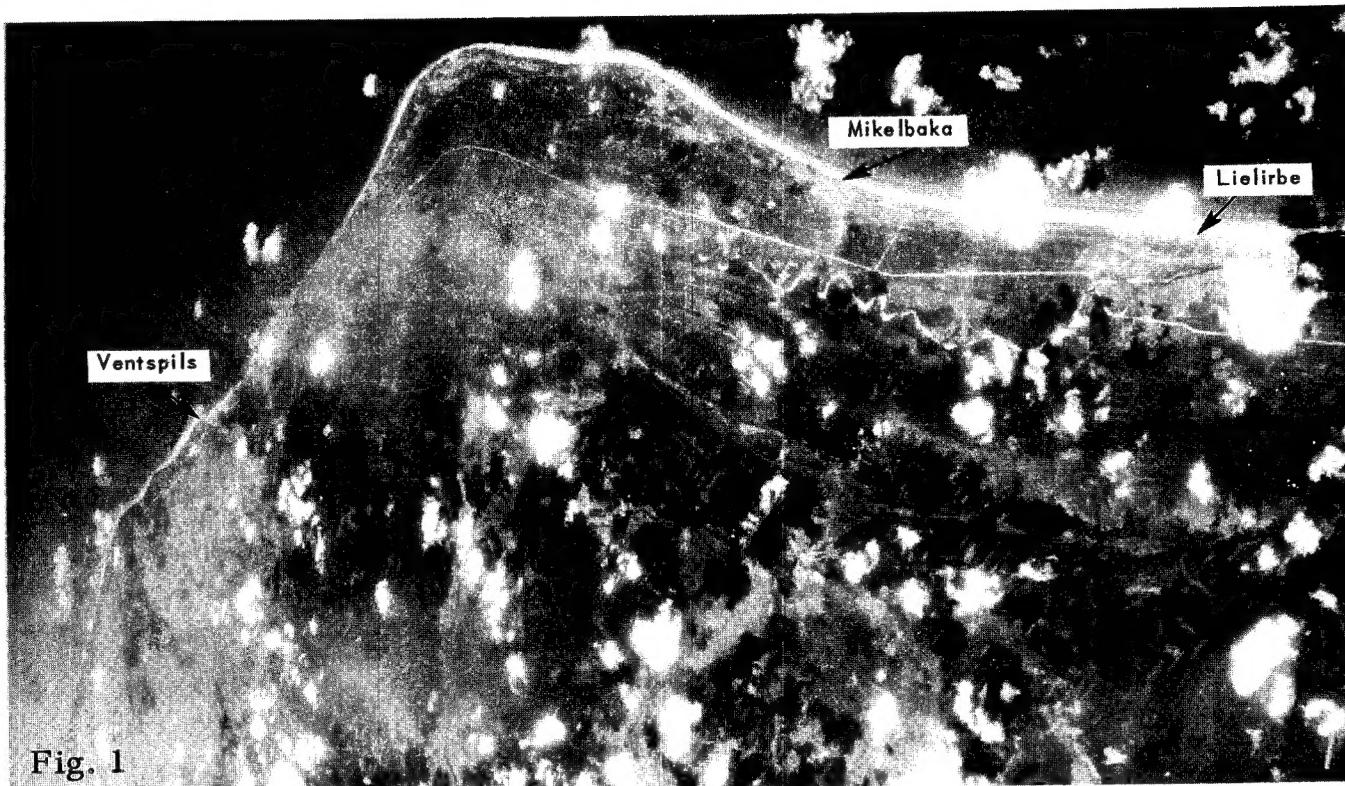


Fig. 1

An unusual feature are seven side roads of the same quality and construction as the main road. Each of these side roads has a wide-radius wye-type turn-off from the main road in the direction of the beach, and is approximately 20 feet wide.

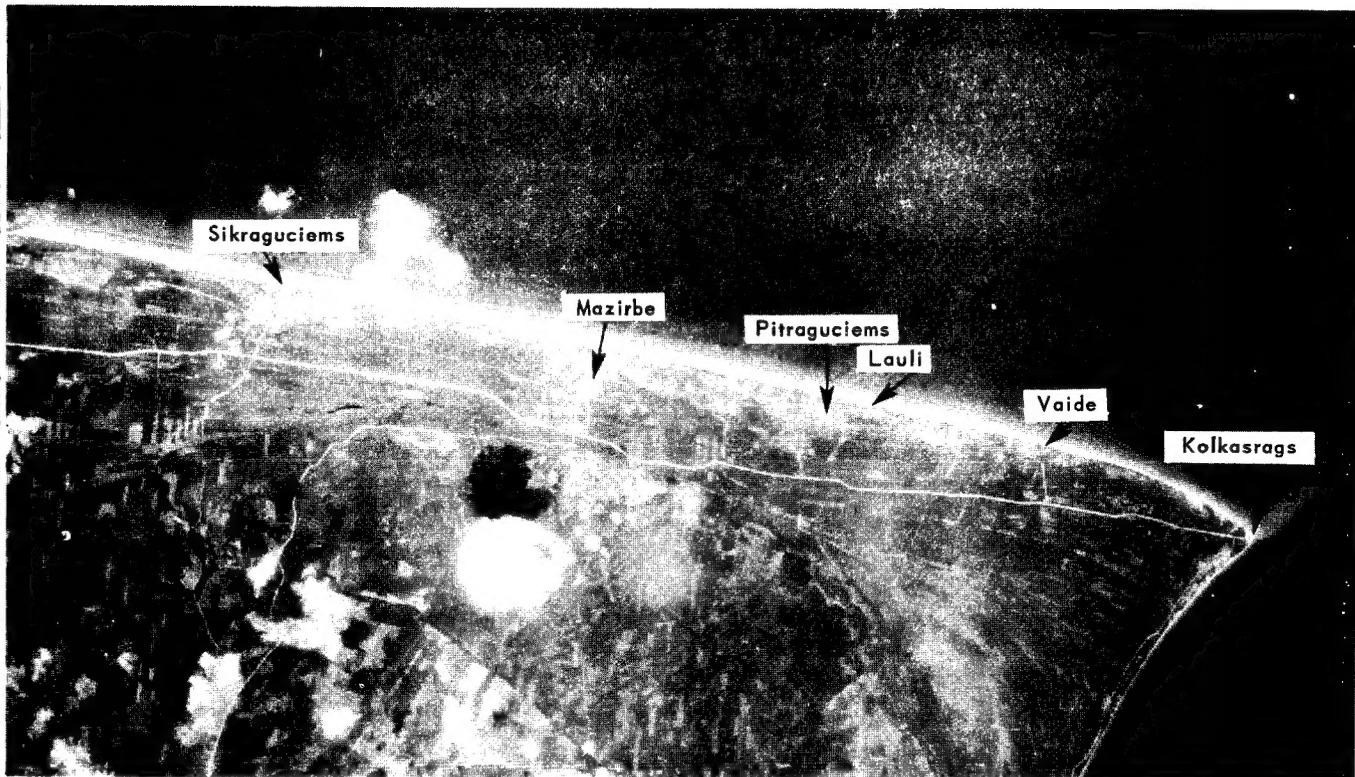
The first of these side roads occurs at a point one mile east of Dizkanki. It proceeds towards the coast and ends at the edge of the village where an area approximately 430 by 90 feet has been scraped or graded, indicating possible preliminary construction activity.

The second side road is one mile east of Mikelbaka where guided missile activity has been reported. At this location the side road has been cut through the forest and ends at a narrow-gauge railroad with a cleared area approximately 100 feet square on each side of the road. On the opposite side of the main road in the woods approximately 1.5 miles from the coast is a probable observation tower. Half a mile to the north of the tower and connected to it by a path through the woods is a facility

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PIC/JR-10/59



consisting of three single-story buildings and one shed-type building, in an area approximately 270 feet by 130 feet. It is served by a short turn-off from the new highway. No security measures are visible.

The next side road is in the vicinity of Lielirbe. This is the longest of the side roads and was carefully engineered to maintain the wide sweeping curves, of which there are three. The road ends near the beach, but partial cloud cover precludes detailed interpretation of that area. A probable 4-gun coast defense site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Lielirbe. This is probably the same site reported [redacted] 2/ in the vicinity of Mikelbaka which is four miles south (see the map, Figure 2). In this area the new highway crosses the Lielirbe river on a deck-type, reinforced concrete bridge approximately 250 feet long.

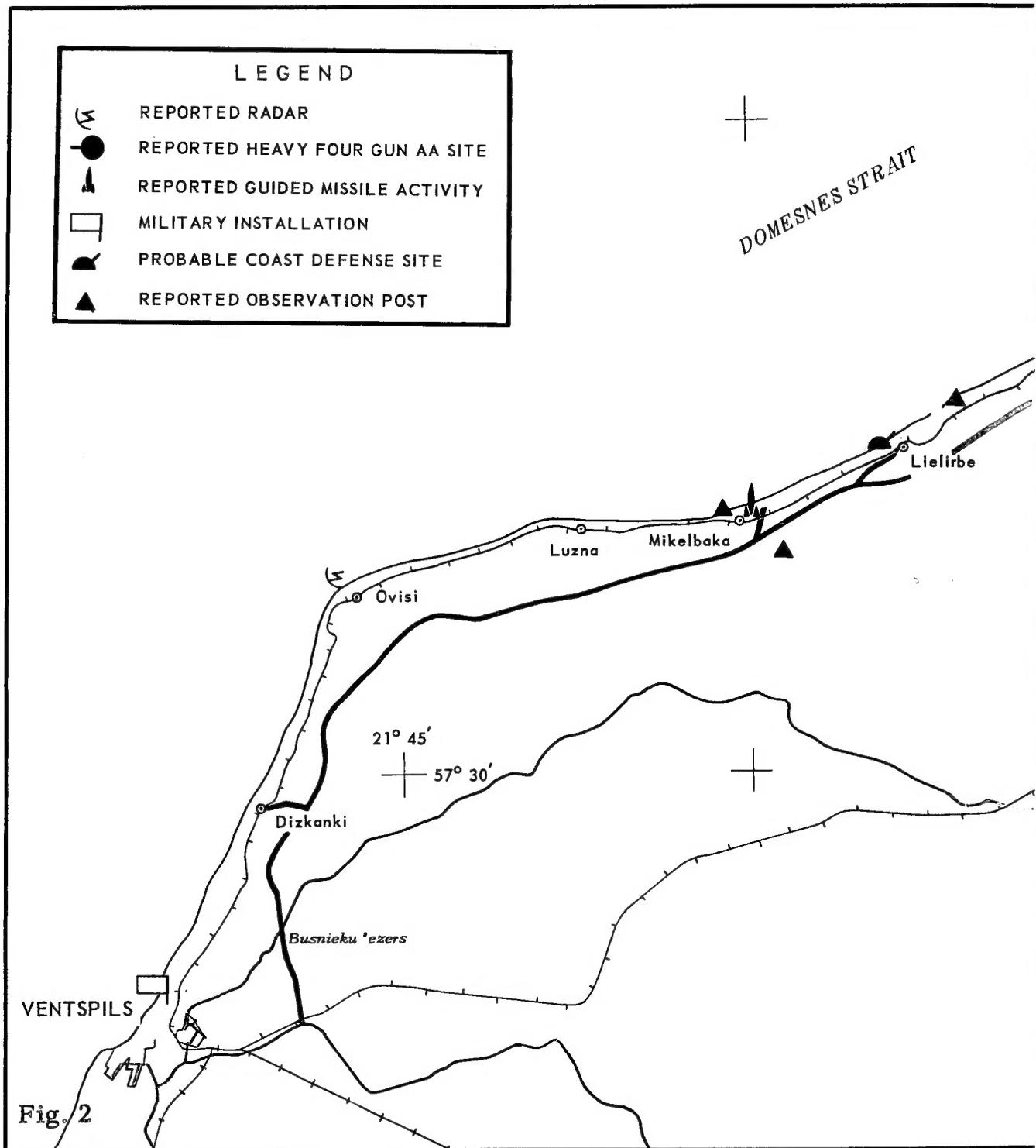
The side road in the vicinity of Sikraguciems is approximately three miles northwest of Slittere, another area of reported guided missile activity. 3/ At this location the side road continues through Sikraguciems

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LEGEND

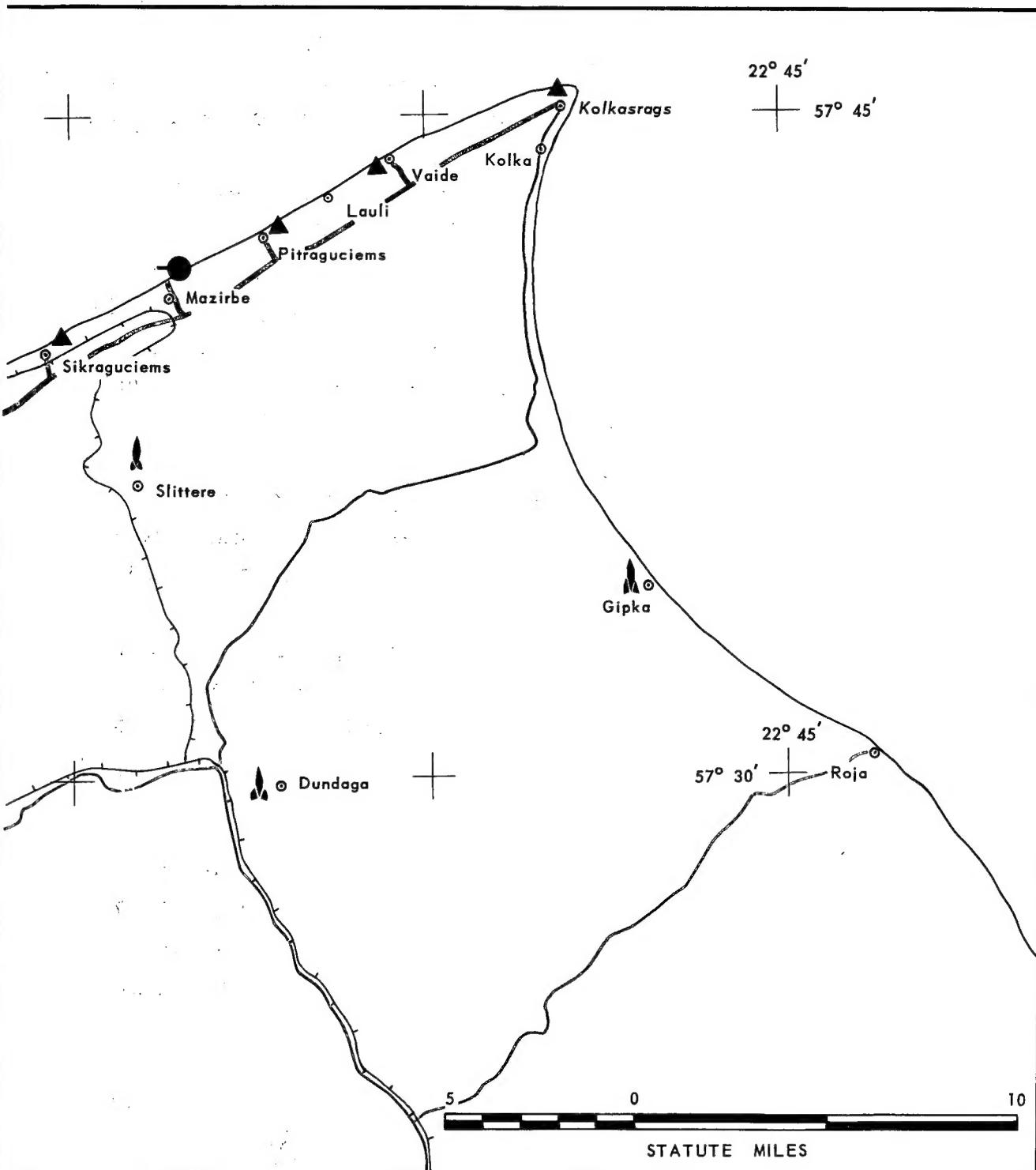
- REPORTED RADAR
- REPORTED HEAVY FOUR GUN AA SITE
- REPORTED GUIDED MISSILE ACTIVITY
- MILITARY INSTALLATION
- PROBABLE COAST DEFENSE SITE
- REPORTED OBSERVATION POST



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PIC/JR-10/59

and ends on the beach at a storage-type building 160 by 25 feet. However, the width changes from approximately 20 feet to 15 feet at the southeast edge of the village. On the edge of a woods immediately after the turn off from the main road an area approximately 325 by 30 feet has been cleared and scraped.

The side road at Mazirbe was constructed through the woods and parallel to the original road from Dundaga to Mazirbe. This new side road comes out of the woods and joins the old road at the edge of town. The old road then continues through the town to the beach where it ends. At this point is a storage-type building 160 by 55 feet. A comparative analysis

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with [redacted] photography shows little change in the village. A barracks area visible on [redacted] photography had been removed by [redacted]. A heavy AA site was reported here in [redacted]. However, it was not present on [redacted] photography. No vehicles were observed and only limited rail activity.

There are two areas possibly secured on the eastern edge of the village. No significant activity could be seen. A possible tower is located approximately 4,600 feet from the beach on a small ridge.

The Lauli and Vaide side roads are only visible on extremely small scale photography which precludes a detailed analysis. Observation posts have been reported at both of the above villages, but could not be confirmed by photography.

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III. MILITARY ACTIVITY

Guided missile activity has been reported 3/ 4/ 5/ on the peninsula in the vicinity of Dundaga, Mikelbaka, Slittere, and Gipka from [redacted] (see the map, Figure 2). Such activity cannot be confirmed by [redacted] photography. Permanent-type coast defense positions were reported in the vicinity of Luzna and Mikelbaka. 2/ 6/ Only the coast defense site near Mikelbaka could be identified on [redacted] photography.

A small military installation in the northern section of Ventspils has been identified and reveals some improvements since [redacted]. A housing area with eight apartment buildings, a probable vehicle shed approximately

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PIC/JR-10/59

275 by 45 feet, and a possible double fence around a wooded area approximately 800 by 450 feet containing three buildings, probably for ammunition storage, have been added. A small training area and small arms range is adjacent to the above facilities. The original barracks and administration area contains four multistory administration or barracks-type buildings.

25X1 One of these, not on [] photography, is possibly under construction. Opposite these buildings are five possible maintenance or support-type buildings. A road leads from this area to a rail served transloading and storage point with two buildings 325 by 140 feet. These storage buildings are secured on three sides by a wooden fence.

A radar site has been reported at Ovisi. 6/ However, the site could not be identified on photography. The only other military activity in Ventspils, confirmed by photography, is Naval.

IV. REGIONAL ECONOMY

The Kolkasrags Peninsula is devoted primarily to fishing and small individual-type farms. The center of this fishing activity is on the east coast in the vicinity of Roja where a small harbor is located. No other ports or harbors are visible on the peninsula. Some lumbering is conducted, probably for local use. In addition to the second class road network on the peninsula a single-track narrow-gauge railroad serves the area between Ventspils, Mazirbe, and Dundaga. No vehicles were observed at any point along the new highway.

V. CONCLUSIONS

1. Appearance of the road on the [] photography indicates 25X1 the construction may have been completed for three or four years. In addition, collateral reports indicate that extensive road construction was in progress in this area during the period []
2. There appears to be no economic justification for a road of this quality and extent in this area. 25X1
3. It is possible this road was constructed primarily to support unidentified military activity.

PIC/JR-10/59

MAP DATA:

AMS Series N501, Sheet No. 34-9, 1:250,000, 3rd Ed., Jul 56.

AMS Series N501, Sheet No. 34-8, 1:250,000, 5th Ed., Jul 56.

CIA 12962 (first revision) Sep 57.

REFERENCES:

1. CIA. RR-MR-53, Geographic Intelligence Review, Oct 57. (S)
2. Navy, ONI. Special World War II Report on Russian Ground Fortification [redacted] 14 Feb 54. (C)
3. Army, G-2 USAREUR S and T. RU-414-57, 24 Jul 57. (C)
4. AFOIN-IAI IAI-447-54, 28 Dec 54. (U)
5. AIR. 7051st Air INTSERON, IR 1351-57. (C)

COORDINATES:

57°21'15"N/22°37'00"E to 57°45'15"N/22°34'30"E

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